TV channels for farmers

†2700. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received proposals to launch a separate TV channel for farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government would consider the proposals and approve them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati, an autonomous corporation have informed that they are not considering any proposal at present to launch a separate TV channel for farmers. They have informed that Doordarshan is already telecasting agricultural programmes from select transmitters in narrow casting mode.

Financial condition of Prasar Bharati

2701. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati is in a very bad financial condition and a fear has been expressed that it may not be able to compete for telecast rights of some important sports events;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have asked the Prasar Bharati to generate its own revenue for plan and non-plan expenditure;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the impact it would have on Prasar Bharati's ability to stay in the competition?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati, as a Public Broadcaster, has structural problems in terms of finance. This does not, however, mean it will not be able to compete for telecast rights for important sports events.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.